

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend and/or add the following claims:

1. (Original) A surface discharge processing method of generating an electric discharge between an electrode and a workpiece and thereby forming a surface reforming layer on the surface of said workpiece,

wherein said electrode is a wire electrode composed of a core wire made of ductile material, and a surface discharge processing material made of a surface reforming material adhered to said core wire or a raw material for the surface reforming material.

2. (Original) The surface discharge processing method according to claim 1, wherein a recess is formed in said core wire, and said surface discharge processing material is adhered to this recess.

3. (Original) The surface discharge processing method according to claim 2, wherein the recess formed in said core wire is spiral in shape.

4. (Original) The surface discharge processing method according to claim 1, wherein a processing program for performing the surface discharge processing is the processing

program for wire discharge processing employed in a preparatory step of surface discharge processing.

5. (Original) A surface discharge processing method of generating an electric discharge between an electrode and a workpiece thereby forming a surface reforming layer on the surface of said workpiece,

wherein a first wire electrode for removal processing by discharge, and a second wire electrode for surface discharge processing composed of a core wire made of ductile material, and a surface discharge processing material made of a surface reforming material adhered to this core wire or a raw material for the surface reforming material are changed over, and the processing is done by combination of removal processing of said workpiece, and surface discharge processing for reforming the surface of the processed side formed by this removal process.

6. (Currently Amended) A surface discharge processing apparatus ~~which generates an electric discharge between an electrode and a workpiece thereby forming a surface reforming layer on the surface of said workpiece, said surface discharge processing apparatus~~ comprising:

a wire electrode ~~as said electrode~~ which generates an electric discharge between said wire electrode and a workpiece thereby forming a surface reforming layer on a surface of said workpiece; and

a wire electrode feeder which feeds said wire electrode to said workpiece during surface discharge processing,

wherein said wire electrode is composed of a core wire made of ductile material, and a surface discharge processing material made of a surface reforming material or a raw material ~~therefore~~ adhered to said core wire ~~or a raw material for the surface reforming material~~.

7. (Previously Amended) The surface discharge processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a recess is formed in said core wire, and said surface discharge processing material is adhered to the recess.

8. (Original) The surface discharge processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the recess formed in said core wire is spiral in shape.

9. (Previously Amended) The surface discharge processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the surface discharge processing apparatus ~~performs the surface discharge processing~~ operates under the control of a processing program ~~which is a processing program for which~~ controls wire discharge processing employed in a preparatory step of surface discharge processing.

10. (Original) A surface discharge processing apparatus which generates an electric discharge between a surface discharge processing electrode and a workpiece thereby forming a surface reforming layer on a surface of said workpiece, said surface discharge processing apparatus comprising:

a first wire electrode for removal processing by an electric discharge;

a second wire electrode for surface discharge processing composed of one of: (a) a core wire made of ductile material, and a surface discharge processing material made of a surface reforming material adhered to said core wire, and (b) ~~of~~ a raw material for the surface reforming material;

a wire electrode feeder which feeds said first wire electrode and second wire electrode to said workpiece during the processing; and

a wire electrode changeover unit which can select said first wire electrode when removal processing is to be performed or select said second wire electrode when surface discharge processing is to be performed.

11. (Original) A surface discharge processing electrode used in surface discharge processing for forming a surface reforming layer on a surface of a workpiece by discharge energy,

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wherein said surface discharge processing electrode is a wire electrode composed of a core wire made of ductile material, and a surface discharge processing material made of a surface reforming material adhered to said core wire or a raw material for the surface reforming material.

12. (Original) The surface discharge processing electrode according to claim 11, wherein a recess is formed in said core wire, and said surface discharge processing material is adhered to this recess.

13. (Original) The surface discharge processing electrode according to claim 12, wherein the recess formed in said core wire is spiral in shape.